

## BOOK REVIEW

JILL NOKES. 2001. **How to Grow Native Plants in Texas and the Southwest. Second Edition.** (ISBN 0-292-75573-2, hbk.). University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819, U.S.A. (Orders: <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress>, 512-471-4032). \$60.00 hbk., 566 pp., 30 watercolor plates, line drawings by Kathryn Miller Brown, 6" × 9".

This is a bible when it comes to propagating the native flora in the Southwest. This second edition is a beautiful example of an author's passion for, knowledge of, and expertise in native plants. The first edition that was published in 1986 has acted as the foremost guide for nurserymen, scientists and laymen trying to grow species of plants that are native in the temperate climate of Texas and the Southwest.

The first edition was written as a graduate thesis when the author was a student at Texas A&M. It contains an interesting analysis of the benefits for using native plants in the landscape verses the typical, exotic, high maintenance nursery stock. When the first edition was published the native plant movement was just beginning to be popular; however, at that time there was little supporting literature on the subject. In the 15 years past a very healthy amount of supporting literature has been published.

In the second edition, the author addresses the common notions that the general public has about native plants. Those being that they are shabby, ill behaved and second rate compared to the typical, traditional landscapes. She talks about the obliteration of the native flora in this country due to unknowing land developers. The author also describes how people think that a native landscape is a "zero-scape." This misconception has led to apathy in using native plants since people do not realize that a native plant garden can be lush, evergreen, and formal. A very good point made by the author is how important the basic design is to a more natural and less formal garden. Another idea offered is the importance of educating the public in choosing adapted, resource-efficient plants. She brings up the water concerns that have come about recently and how public places can be key factors in making the public aware about using water-efficient plants.

The second edition has been significantly expanded as far as the number of species addressed, approximately 75 new along with the original 350 trees, shrubs and woody vines. Some of these species are from the subtropical southern part of Texas; a region apparently left out of the first edition. Other revised sections of the book are those that give the user precise instructions on gathering and storing seed, seed germination, planting, vegetative propagation and transplanting. The bulk of the book consists of the propagation techniques for the genera and species. Both editions are well illustrated but the new edition includes photographs showing working examples of nursery methods that are described in the text. One of the best parts of the work is the group of beautiful watercolor plates that illustrate the characteristics of 30 species.

Both editions came about with the help and encouragement of numerous experts some of whom have past away since the first edition. The author says she has acted as a bridge between the younger generation of horticulturists and the elder generation by bringing together their knowledge in this publication. New techniques in horticulture that have boosted older methods have led to an increased availability of these plants from the nursery trade.

This book is not only a guide for greenhouse and nursery workers but also a field guide for anyone wanting to identify a plant that has been found in the wild that could be considered for ornamental applications. This publication sets high standards for horticulturalists for many years to come.—Justin Allison, FNA Administrative Assistant, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.